

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of disseminating information by a first end terminal in a network having a plurality of end terminals, said method comprising:
- 5 receiving information from an information source;
- validating said information;
- storing said validated information; and
- 10 automatically forwarding said validated information to a second end terminal of said plurality of end terminals over a communication channel established between said first and said second end terminals, wherein said communication
- 15 channel is established for a purpose separate from forwarding said validated information.
2. A method according to Claim 1, further including receiving a positive acknowledgement from said second
- 20 end terminal.
3. A method according to Claim 2, further including informing said information source that said information has been successfully disseminated.
- 25
4. A method according to Claim 3, further including receiving a reward for successfully disseminating said information.
- 30 5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein validating said information includes validating said information using a verification key provided by a certification authority.

6. A method according to Claim 5, wherein said verification key is a public key.

7. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said method
5 is performed by a validated first end terminal.

8. A method according to Claim 7, wherein said first end terminal is validated using a root key.

10 9. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said information is forwarded over said established communication channel as a piggyback in a frame.

10. A method according to Claim 9, wherein said
15 information is contained in a data field of said frame.

11. A method of disseminating information by a first end terminal in a network having a plurality of end terminals, said method comprising:

20 receiving information from an information source;

validating said information;

storing said -validated information;

25 detecting establishment of a communication channel between said first end terminal and a second end terminal of said plurality of end terminals, wherein said communication channel is established for a purpose separate from forwarding said validated information; and

30 automatically forwarding validated information to said second end terminal over said established communication channel.

12. A method according to Claim 11, further comprising:

receiving a positive acknowledgement from said second end terminal; and

informing said information source that said information is successfully disseminated.

13. A method according to Claim 12, further comprising:
receiving a reward for successfully disseminating said information.

14. A method of disseminating information over a network having a plurality of end terminals, said method comprising:

sending information from an information source to at least one end terminal, wherein said at least one end terminal validates said information and forwards said information via a piggyback in a frame when a channel is established between said at least one end terminal and another end terminal for a purpose other than dissemination of information.

15. A system for disseminating information comprising:
an information source; and
at least two end terminals including a first end terminal and a second end terminal;
wherein said first end terminal performs a method including:

receiving information from said information source;

validating said information;

storing said validated information; and

automatically forwarding said validated information to said second end terminal of said plurality of end terminals over a

communication channel established between said first and said second end terminals, wherein said communication channel is established for a purpose separate from forwarding said validated information.

16. A system according to Claim 15, further including an information certification authority that provides a verification key to said first end terminal for validating said information.

17. A system according to Claim 16, wherein said information source receives said information from said information certification authority.